



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Elk Refuge

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 14, 2006 06-03

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## **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CAUTIONS AGAINST TRESPASS AND ANTLER POACHING ON THE NATIONAL ELK REFUGE**

With bull elk expected to soon begin shedding their antlers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reminds the public that it is illegal to trespass on, or remove antlers from, the National Elk Refuge. Both antler theft and trespass on the Refuge are violations of Federal regulations. Prohibited actions include the taking, possession, transportation, selling, receiving or purchasing of antlers illegally removed from the Refuge. Because of the high market value of shed antlers, removal of even a few average-sized antlers from the Refuge could be a felony violation.

Shed antlers are routinely removed by Refuge personnel throughout the spring in order to minimize damage to feeding equipment and prevent trespassing by antler poachers. Through a special use permit, the Jackson District Boy Scouts assist in collecting the antlers and preparing them for public sale. The antlers must be sorted, bundled, weighed and tagged prior to the sale. More than 200 Scouts and adult leaders work for nearly 2,000 hours with Refuge personnel during the annual antler project, which includes litter cleanup on the Refuge.

This year's antler auction is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 on the Jackson Town Square. The majority of proceeds from the auction are donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist with elk management and habitat enhancement on the National Elk Refuge. Antlers are also available for sale throughout the year at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center located at 532 N. Cache Street in Jackson.

For more information on the antler auction or other Elkfest activities scheduled for May 20–21, please contact the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce at 307/733-3316 or visit [www.jacksonholechamber.com](http://www.jacksonholechamber.com).

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[www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge](http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge)